

Motime: CSS

CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets. It is a newer form of HTML coding that is replacing some of the traditional tags (such as the tag). We won't cover HTML or CSS in class, but you don't need to know a lot to be able to change the colors in the Motime template, which is now done mostly in CSS.

Colors:

To designate a color in traditional HTML you need a six digit code such as #000000 (black) or #ffffff (white). Check out Lynda's web site (<http://www.lynda.com/hex.asp>) and click on either hue or value to get a list of basic hex codes.

Template:

To view your template code in Motime:

- Select the Blogs tab
- Select Template
- Select the "Edit" tab if you aren't automatically in it.

CSS:

If you are viewing your blog template in IE, it should break the code up enough so you can see the different blocks of code that designate the styles for different elements such as the Links, the Text, and the Tables.

For example:

```
a { color:#676C56; background: transparent; text-decoration: underline;}
a:link { color: #676C56; background: transparent;font-weight: normal;}
a:visited { color: #676C56; background: transparent;font-weight: normal;}
a:active { color: #333333; background: transparent;font-weight: normal;text-decoration:
underline;}
```

Edit Colors:

If you want to change the colors in your template, all you have to do is find the CSS codes and change the HTML color codes.

Look for these CSS blocks within your template:

Links – to change link colors, look for these codes

a – (link, visited link, active link)

Text – to change text colors, look for these codes

paragraph style

#contentleft p

#contentright p

#contentmain p

header style

h2.sectiontitle (links, comments, etc.)

h5.itemtitle (title of blog entries)

main blog title (top)

.blogtitle

.blogdescription

Tables – to change background color in tables, look for these codes

#contentleft

#contentmain

#contentright

#footer

#contentheader (here you can change the link for the top image, if your template has one)

View Changes:

Once you change the HTML color codes in the CSS template, you can preview your changes with the "Preview" button at the bottom of the template page. Once all the changes look good, you can click the "Save Changes" button to update the template.

Default:

Don't worry too much about screwing up your page; you can always go back to the default templates and select another one you start over.

- Click on the main "Blogs" tab.
- Select Templates.
- Select Browse.

- Click on the "Example (enlarge)" link to get a pop-up for a closer look at the thumbnail.
- Close the pop-up when you have finished examining it.
- Click the "Click to choose" button next to the template you want.

Further Study:

If you want to edit more CSS on your blog, check out the HTML and CSS links on the links page in the syllabus.